

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

( ADP ) R

DRAFTED BY EA/ P: DJCARPENTER: PP

4/20/73 EXT 20838

APPROVED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN

EA/ VN - MR. COLLINS

EA/ VN - MR. ASKEW

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R 202300 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075133

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: VIS, PINT

SUBJECT: ALLEGED GVN POLITICAL STALLING TACTICS

REF: A. STATE 066654

B. SAIGON 6187

1. SUN- TIMES' TOM ROSS DECLINES IDENTIFY SOURCES OF INFO RE  
ALLEGED GVN ELECTION STALLING STRATEGY HE DESCRIBED  
IN ARTICLE NOTED IN REF A EXCEPT TO AFFIRM THEY WERE  
MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL THIEU PARTY ON US VISIT. ROSS  
HAS GIVEN US COPY OF EARLIER APRIL 5 SUN- TIMES ARTICLE  
ELABORATING STRATEGY, RELEVANT PORTION OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO  
STALL ON THE POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS PEACE  
AGREEMENT IN HOPES OF BLOCKING ANY GAIN IN POWER BY  
THE COMMUNISTS AND NEUTRALISTS. KEY SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THE GOVERNMENT' S STRATEGY AS PRESIDENT  
NGUYEN VAN THIEU ARRIVED HERE WEDNESDAY FROM HIS  
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN CALIFORNIA.

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3. THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IF POLITICAL COMPROMISE CAN BE PUT OFF FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY ENTRENCHED TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS OR NEUTRALISTS FROM GAINING POWER EITHER BY MILITARY OR NONMILITARY MEANS.

4. IT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED WHETHER THIEU CONVEYED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO MR. NIXON DURING THEIR MEETING IN SAN CLEMENTE MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

5. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THIEU MADE AN AMBIGUOUS DECLARATION IN REGARD TO THE POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

6. ON THE ONE HAND HE " EXPRESSED HIS EARNEST DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" AND SAID HE WOULD SEEK A SETTLEMENT " IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT."

7. ON THE OTHER HAND HE ASSERTED THAT THE SETTLEMENT WOULD HAVE TO " FULLY ENSURE THE RIGHT OF SELF- DETERMINATION BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ( AND THEIR) HOPES FOR PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY"- GOALS THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY DECLARED WOULD BE FORFEITED IN ANY COMPROMISE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

8. MR. NIXON LIMITED HIMSELF TO A STATEMENT THAT HE " INFORMED PRESIDENT THIEU OF HIS GREAT INTEREST IN THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAM PARTIES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN FRANCE IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM."

9. THE MEETINGS IN PARIS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT AND THE VIET CONG ARE DESIGNED TO WORK OUT A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION, AS CALLED FOR IN THE PEACE AGREEMENT. THE COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SAIGON, THE VIET CONG AND NEUTRALISTS, IS SUPPOSED TO ARRANGE NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

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10. BUT THE COUNCIL MUST ACT BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND  
THUS EITHER SIDE CAN EXERCISE A VETO OVER THE POLITICAL  
PROCESS. AND THIEU'S STRATEGY, AS OUTLINED BY THE  
SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, INDICATED LITTLE PROSPECT  
THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD GET BEYOND THE EXPLORATORY  
STAGE.

11. NORTH VIETNAM EVIDENTLY HAS ALREADY WRITTEN OFF  
THE TALKS AND, ACCORDING TO A U. S. INTELLIGENCE REPORT  
TO MR. NIXON LAST WEEKEND, PROBABLY HAS DECIDED TO  
LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE THIS MONTH TO "LIBERATE" ENOUGH

TERRITORY TO ESTABLISH A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.  
END QUOTE.

12. ALONG SAME LINE, WE NOTE APRIL 16 TIME MAGAZINE  
SAYS THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON,  
THIEU "LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL NOT BE WILLING  
TO SHARE POWER WITH THE COMMUNISTS. HIS AIDES PRIVATELY  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIEU WANTS NO POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AT  
LEAST FOR THE NEXT YEAR."

13. YOU MAY WISH TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF THESE ARTICLES  
TO MFA AND/ OR TO HOANG DUC NHA, AND ELICIT THEIR  
REACTION. GVN PERFORMANCE AT BILATERAL TALKS AS WELL  
AS THIEU STATEMENTS CERTAINLY WOULD LEAVE OPPOSITE  
IMPRESSION. GVN RECORD IN FACT FORMS BASIS ON WHICH  
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POSITION COULD BE BUILT SHOWING GVN  
EFFORTS IN FAVOR OF RECONCILIATION AND EARLY POLITICAL  
SETTLEMENT. (FYI- NOTE HEATH COMMENTS ON THIS  
SUBJECT REPORTED LONDON 4626). PORTER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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